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IN 1940. PUBLICATION OF THE SERIES OF Colonial Annual Reports was suspended. The Reports now being issued cover the events of the first year after the war, and in many cases reference is made to progress during the war years.

All issues in the new series will have a pictorial cover and most will contain four pages of illustrations and a map of the Dependency concerned.

Particulars of the series are given inside the back cover.

PART

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Gt. Brit. COLONIAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

FOR THE YEAR
1946

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Cover Illustration:
Raking Salt, Turks Islands

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PART I

General Account of Matters of Interest During 1946

DURING the year 1946 the manufacture and export of salt, which is the Dependency's principal export, remained at a low level. The difficulties of this industry, on which the Dependency's economy rests, were accentuated by the continuing low price of salt, which has advanced but little since 1939. Formulation of plans for reorganizing the industry and study of improved loading methods continued throughout the year.

Concurrently with the study of plans for the reorganization of the salt industry, a five-year Development and Welfare plan was prepared. The cost of the plans submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies totalled £64,934, to be met from the allocation made to Jamaica under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. The plans provide for the continuation of certain already existing schemes including an agricultural experiment. New schemes provide for staffing and opening a new hospital at Grand Turk and building a dispensary and small emergency hospital in the Caicos Islands. The Education plan provides for an Education Officer, assistance in raising the extremely low salaries paid to teachers, teachers'-training courses and assistance in enlarging, re-equipping and rebuilding Elementary Schools throughout the Dependency. There is also provision for the improved lighting of the important Turks Island Passage, which provides the shortest route from Europe to Jamaica.

The Turks and Caicos Islands are subject to hurricanes, and in September, 1945, a hurricane exceeding 150 m.p.h. in velocity struck the Islands doing immense damage and causing severe loss of life. Assistance was generously given by His Majesty's Government, by the Government of Jamaica and by subscribers in Jamaica and Bermuda. The work of relief continued during 1946 and by the close of the year 77 houses had been repaired, 66 houses had been partially built and 29 houses had been rebuilt. Assistance had been given in various ways for the repair of property, vessels and boats to another 129 persons. The work was continuing at the close of the year and was expected to end in 1947.

During the early war years the minor but profitable sponge industry was brought to a standstill by disease. The recovery of the banks is proving unexpectedly slow and this is delaying the revival of this industry. The export of lobsters is another minor industry which opened up on an experimental scale late in 1946.

The standard of living remains low. The difficulties of the Dependency are aggravated by the increasing cost of imports, especially food, which has almost all to be imported, unemployment in the salt industry, continued drought in the Caicos Islands and the continued inability to secure direct shipment of supplies from the United Kingdom or from North America, which was the normal pre-war source of supply for the

greater part of the Dependency's foodstuffs. The cost of living has been kept down since 1942 by aid of a subsidy by His Majesty's Government which has offset the serious increases in prices due to the transshipment of goods from Jamaica which is now the Dependency's almost sole source of supply. But for this subsidy the rise in the cost of foodstuffs would have reduced the labouring and farming population to the verge of starvation. Prospects for 1947 are somewhat brighter but full employment and any appreciable improvement in the standard of living are not yet in sight.

PART II

Chapter I: Population

The last census was taken in 1943 when the population of the Dependency was 6,138.

Persons of African descent	4,081
Persons of mixed descent	1,935
Persons of European descent	122

The estimated population in 1946 was 6,515. Females exceed males in number.

The births and deaths registered during the last eight years were as follows:

	<i>Number of Births</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Birth-rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Death-rate per 1,000</i>
1939	198	85	36.01	15.45
1940	226	109	40.4	19.4
1941	215	131	38.6	23.54
1942	223	103	42.1	19.5
1943	244	103	39.7	16.8
1944	209	99	34	16.1
1945	249	234	38.9	36.54
1946	204	93	31.3	14.3

The above rates up to 1942 are based on the population of 1921, and from 1943 on the population of 1943.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1946 was 29, equal to a death rate of 142 per 1,000 births; and in 1945 the corresponding figures were 25 and 100 per 1,000. Twenty-seven marriages were registered in 1946.

The emigration and immigration figures for the year under review were:

	1946
Entered	135
Departed	141

Chapter II: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organization

The demand for labour is confined to that required in connection with the salt industry and does not exceed 200 men. The demand is seasonal. One of the principal reasons for the proposal to rehabilitate this industry and bring it under public ownership is the need to provide regular and better paid employment for labour. The difficulty in raising wages to allow for the great increase in the cost of living lies in the continuing low

world price of salt and in the difficulty in regaining markets lost during the war. The actual shipping of salt requires additional labour which is found by the temporary employment of fishermen, artisans, tailors and the like. Rates paid for shipping are good and the supply of this casual labour exceeds the demand. Some women are employed when salt is shipped filling the small half-bushel bags which are used for loading lighters.

There is a very limited amount of employment on steamers, and some labour is required by the salt industry at Inagua in the Bahamas, and in the lumber industry at Abaco in the Bahamas. Unemployment is severe and there is a tendency for the best men to leave the Dependency whenever a chance of employment elsewhere occurs.

Employers are not responsible for housing or feeding their employees. There is no Workmen's Compensation Act or unemployment insurance scheme. There is a Minimum Wages Ordinance.

The average rate of wages for labourers employed in raking and carting salt is from 2s. 9d. to 3s. a day of ten hours, and from 7s. to 12s. a day when shipping it. Carpenters and blacksmiths earn from 5s. to 10s. a day of nine hours.

In domestic service the wages vary from 30s. to £4 a month, usually with rations. Payment of wages in goods from the stores of the salt proprietors is no longer prevalent.

The cost of living has risen by about 83 per cent since the outbreak of war, and in the same period labourers' wages have risen about 25 per cent. Since 1942 His Majesty's Government has generously granted an annual subsidy. This was expected to amount to £18,000 in the financial year 1946/47. But for this subsidy so far granted, the cost of living would have mounted to 149 per cent above pre-war prices. The biggest single cause of the increase is the impossibility of obtaining direct shipments of foodstuffs from Canada and the United States of America, which were the natural sources of supply in pre-war years. All supplies have to be obtained from Jamaica. Handling and transhipment from Jamaica is estimated to increase the cost of items imported by about 30 per cent over the direct landed cost.

Chapter III: Public Finance and Taxation

The following table shows the totals of revenue and expenditure in the last five years:

	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>
	£	£
1942/43 . . .	16,287	23,019
1943/44 . . .	34,757	34,701
1944/45 . . .	34,815	30,562
1945/46 (Estimated)	43,166	34,586
1946/47 . . .	32,217	38,641

The financial year 1946/47 opened with a surplus of £12,246 and is expected to close with a surplus of £8,409. The depletion of the surplus

funds of the Dependency was largely due to expenditure on Hurricane Relief.

There is no Public Debt.

The main items of revenue were estimated as follows:

	1946/47
	£
Customs Duties	9,901
Royalty on Salt	2,000
Port Dues	480
Internal Revenue	340
Fees of Court and Office	222
Departmental Revenue	200
Reimbursements	1,143
Post Office	12,625
Interest	100
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,190
Colonial Development Fund	5,581
Extraordinary Revenue	1,291

The main items of expenditure were estimated as follows:

	1946/47
	£
Pensions	1,457
Commissioner's Department	3,959
Treasury and Customs	2,657
Judicial Department	1,083
Police and Prisons	2,714
Medical Department	3,464
Paupers and Lunatics	1,080
Education	1,613
Miscellaneous	1,966
Post Office	1,625
Lighthouse Department	453
Savings Bank	367
Public Works Department	442
Public Works Recurrent	1,415
Colonial Development Fund	5,581
Extraordinary Expenditure	3,778

Taxation in this Dependency is light. There is no income tax, no land tax, no property tax, no taxes on trades, animals or vehicles, no poll tax and no excise or stamp duties. Additional taxation is contemplated in the financial year 1947/48.

The principal sources of revenue are the Customs import duties and the royalty on salt exported. There have also been unusually big sales of stamps.

The Customs Tariff was amended in March, 1932, when a British Preferential Tariff was introduced here for the first time. The specific duties are low in comparison with similar duties levied in most of the

other Colonies. All goods not particularly specified or included in the free list pay duty as follows:

British Preferential Tariff	10 per cent <i>ad valorem</i>
General Tariff	15 per cent <i>ad valorem</i>

The present sound financial position of the Dependency is largely due to the sale of the Commemorative stamp issues in 1946/47. Trade has improved slightly during the past two years. Salt, the main item of export, is, however, a low-priced commodity and markets are unstable. It is unlikely that, unless the salt industry can be successfully reorganized and markets recovered, revenue will meet expenditure in a normal year.

Chapter IV: Currency and Banking

At 31st December, 1946, there were 1,105 accounts in operation with £46,811 16s. 3d. to the credit of depositors. Deposits and withdrawals during the year amounted to £22,160 12s. 5d. and £21,925 16s. 4d. respectively. Interest paid to depositors was £1,089 9s. 9d. The market value of Savings Bank investments at 31st December, 1946, £51,671 1s. 4d. The increase in Savings Bank business is indicated by the following comparison. Amount due depositors 31st December, 1938, was £12,072 4s. 5d., at 31st December, 1946, it was £46,811 16s. 3d.

British and foreign currency notes were also in circulation.

Chapter V: Commerce

The value of the trade of these Islands during the last six years was as follows:

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Imports	£40,828	31,148	70,163	58,272	93,731	60,864
Exports	£39,297	18,456	12,646	14,367	21,293	31,891
	<u>£80,125</u>	<u>49,604</u>	<u>82,809</u>	<u>72,639</u>	<u>115,024</u>	<u>92,751</u>

IMPORTS

The next table shows the direction of trade, as regards imports, in the last six years:

	United Kingdom	Other parts of the British Empire	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1941	2,992	11,557	26,279	40,828
1942	4,221	14,946	11,981	31,148
1943	13,113	44,209	12,841	70,163
1944	740	40,527	17,005	58,272
1945	330	78,440	14,961	93,731
1946	509	50,965	9,390	60,864

The countries of origin and value of the import trade in 1946 were:

	£	£
United Kingdom		509
Canada	27,863	
Barbados	1,276	
Jamaica	21,169	
Bahamas	557	
		50,965
Haiti	1,961	
San Domingo	5,774	
United States	1,655	
		9,390
Total imports		<u>£60,864</u>

Eighty-four per cent of imports were from the British Empire and sixteen per cent from foreign countries.

The following is a classified summary of the imports for the year 1946 showing the principal sources of supply:

	1946 £	British Empire	Foreign Countries
Food, drink and tobacco	46,817	82 %	18 %
Raw materials	1,926	99 %	1 %
Manufactured articles	10,706	94 %	6 %
Unclassified	1,415	74 %	26 %
Total	<u>£60,864</u>		

The principal articles imported in 1946 were as follows:

Article	Quantity	Value in £'s
Flour bbls.	4,568	11,988
Cotton Goods		2,590
Lard and substitutes lbs.	62,995	4,574
Rice lbs.	172,484	5,754
Lumber ft.	44,163	1,130
Sugar lbs.	369,600	3,835
Condensed Milk		2,938
Meats—salted lbs.	38,500	1,852
Oils, Mineral gals.	17,352	677
Rum gals.	5,639	1,625
Cigarettes lbs.	13,919	1,206
	1,600	

EXPORTS

During 1946 the declared value of the domestic exports of the Dependency was £21,293 and re-exports £9,006.

The following table shows the direction of the domestic exports in the last six years:

	United Kingdom	Other parts of the British Empire	Foreign Countries	Total
	£	£	£	£
1941	—	29,738	9,559	39,297
1942	—	11,429	7,027	18,456
1943	—	8,743	3,903	12,646
1944	—	10,500	3,867	14,367
1945	—	17,607	3,686	21,293
1946	5	26,704	5,187	31,891

Of exports fifty-eight per cent were sent to the Empire and forty-two per cent to foreign countries. Full statistics are:

	£	£
United Kingdom		5
Canada	4,873	
Jamaica	14,182	
St. Vincent	101	
Newfoundland	7,543	
	<hr/>	26,699
Total British Empire		26,704
Haiti		3,353
United States		1,834
		<hr/>
Total Exports		£31,891

Chapter VI: Production

The principal industry in this Dependency is the production of salt from sea water by solar evaporation. The industry is carried on at three centres, Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos. The annual output, which over the past twenty-five years has averaged 1,300,000 bushels, is the product of salinas belonging to private owners. The salt is shipped to Canada and the United States of America and is used there for fish-curing and meat-packing. It is also shipped to Jamaica. Efforts are being made to extend the markets. Turks Islands salt was famous for its purity and it had an excellent reputation in the markets of the countries mentioned above. The industry has declined of recent years because of the splitting up of salinas into small holdings, loss of markets during the war, a decline in purity of the salt produced and lack of capital for redesign of salinas and for the improvement of loading facilities and lighters. As one result of an investigation made in 1945 there has been a steady improvement in the quality of salt produced in

the larger salinas. Co-operation between lighter-owners has gone some way to speed up loading cargoes into vessels. The complete rehabilitation of the industry and the possibility of bringing it under public ownership was being actively explored during 1946. Three grades are exported; coarse, the natural product of the salinas; fishery, a grade processed to a fineness suitable for the curing of fish; and industrial, fine ground, suitable for dairy and similar uses. The coarse and fishery grades are largely shipped in bulk; the industrial is bagged.

The 1946 raking was average. Despite the continuing low price of salt exports have been well below the average of pre-war years and at the close of the year 67,000 tons of producers' stocks were in hand.

The following table shows the destination, quantity and value of the salt shipments in 1946:

	Tons	Value in £'s
Jamaica	5,597	11,382
Canada	5,162	4,873
United States	1,741	1,833
United Kingdom	5	5
St. Vincent	101	101
Newfoundland	6,967	7,543
	<u>19,573</u>	<u>25,737</u>

There were no exports of sponge during the year but the improved condition of the banks, which were depleted by disease in the early part of the war, encourages the belief that this industry can be revived in 1947.

Agriculture is mainly confined to the Caicos Islands, where the people can, in a good year, produce sufficient corn, fruit and vegetables to maintain themselves and sell a surplus at the main settlements. On the Turks Islands group very little is grown and the people have mainly to rely on the wages obtained from the salt industry to purchase imports.

Owing to severe droughts the crops were below average.

In years past the exports of sisal and cotton were of considerable value to the Dependency. The fall in prices and failure to produce the first quality resulted in the closing down of the plantations. An attempt is being made to revive sisal growing as a peasant industry and a small quantity of locally made rope is exported to Jamaica.

The following table shows the quantity and value of the principal items of domestic produce exported during the last six years:

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Salt, bushels	1,327,697	429,386	236,181	266,894	356,948	586,234
value	£36,495	£14,755	£8,535	£10,499	£14,370	£25,737
Sponge, lb.	2,770	—	—	770	—	—
value	£230	—	—	£250	—	—
Conchs, no.	2,513,680	3,627,050	3,880,370	3,518,090	3,169,300	3,353,850
value	£2,504	£3,626	£3,880	£3,518	£3,170	£3,354
Sisal, lb.	3,400	3,400	17,920	—	—	—
value	£30	£49	£208	—	—	—
Sisal Rope, lb.	—	—	—	—	89,957	54,500
value	—	—	—	—	£3,610	£2,800

N.B.: Thirty bushels of salt equal one ton.

Chapter VII: Social Services

EDUCATION

The education system of the Dependency is under the direction of the Board of Education, nominated by the Commissioner, who is the Chairman.

Primary education is provided by the Government free of charge. It is compulsory in the three principal settlements of the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay, for children between the ages of seven and fourteen years, but it is not compulsory in the out-lying settlements in the Caicos Islands, where it is not possible to maintain schools to meet the requirements of some of the small isolated communities.

The Board of Education receives an annual grant from the Government. There are eleven elementary schools.

In 1946 the number of scholars whose names were enrolled was 959, and the average attendance 692. There were also three private elementary schools with a total of forty pupils. Whilst the average appears to be small it should be remembered that the settlements in the Caicos Islands are scattered and many children are not within reach of a school. Many who do attend have to walk long distances in great heat and along bad roads.

During the food shortage free issues of milk and cod liver oil were made. Owing to the very small salaries offered and the lack of proper training facilities, there is great difficulty in obtaining efficient teachers for the schools and very few of those employed as such can be regarded as being really competent. Improvement in the standard of school buildings, equipment, sanitation, playing grounds, etc., is badly needed. A grant has been applied for from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Improvements in teachers' salaries and the provision of teachers' training courses are planned.

There is a Senior Government School at Grand Turk. In 1946 there were 34 pupils on the roll and the average attendance was 34. A centre for the Cambridge University Local Examinations was established at Grand Turk in 1924 and local examinations have been held annually, with generally satisfactory results.

No technical education is provided in this Dependency, nor are there any evening classes.

There is a good public library and free reading room at Grand Turk. It is well stocked with books and provides a good assortment of current papers and magazines. Generous assistance has been given by the British Council and it is proposed to open sub-libraries at five other centres.

HEALTH

The principal cause of death in this Dependency is old age. Over 25 per cent of the deaths among adults were due to degenerative changes, especially of the cardiac vascular system. In 1945 over 53 deaths occurred in Grand Turk, of which 30 per cent were due to old age and 20 per cent to diseases of the genito-urinary system. The remaining percentage was

divided among malnutrition and anemia. The figures for 1947 show a similar trend.

Although malnutrition and vitamin deficiency, especially of the B-Complex group, are rampant and form a large percentage of the morbidity, the mortality is low. The chief industry is salt production and the only disease that may be ascribed to this is pterygium due to the glare in the salinas and on the roads, which are treated with a waste product called 'scale'. 'Scale' is composed of Calcium Sulphate, the least soluble constituent of sea water, and is precipitated during the early stages of the manufacture of salt. It settles along with organic matter in the form of mud. The treatment for pterygium is surgical removal.

Infectious Diseases

These have very low incidence and when present are of very low virulence. Malaria exists in the Caicos group, but probably not in Grand Turk where no positive slides have been found and the *Anopheles* mosquito has never been discovered.

Prevention and Treatment

As shown above, the highest cause of morbidity is malnutrition and avitaminosis. The treatment is adequate and balanced diet supported with vitamins, especially nicotinic acid, thiamine chloride, and ascorbic acid. These are provided for as much as possible by monies for poor relief, and large supplies of vitamins and cod liver oil are liberally distributed at the Dispensary. A Maternity and Welfare Clinic has been established where expectant mothers and babies are given medical attention.

The Nursing Care

This has not been as satisfactory as would be desired, but there are seven nurses in training in Jamaica and the situation should improve. One trained nurse has already returned and is at present attached to the Dispensary.

Hospital.

Provision has been made in the Ten Year Development Plan for the building of a new hospital at Grand Turk, a dispensary and small emergency hospital in South Caicos and for dispensaries in the outlying settlements. The Government Dental Officer will be accommodated in the new Hospital at Grand Turk. At present he works under considerable difficulty.

The only existing hospital is the old and entirely inadequate Manning Hospital. This hospital is principally used as a poor house but there is a small maternity ward and urgent cases can be taken in. Operations are done under most primitive conditions but with amazing success. Credit must be ascribed to the healthy climate and to the care and skill of the Medical and Nursing Staff, and not to the adequacy of the operating theatre or equipment.

There is a Welfare Clinic with a small maternity ward at Bottle Creek in the Caicos Islands. An existing house was altered and equipped under a grant made from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and there

is a trained midwife in charge. Good work has been done during the year but owing to distance and lack of transport supervision by the Medical Officer has been lacking. Efforts are being made to overcome this difficulty.

Drainage Works

The Island is free of swamps and no drainage is necessary.

Water Supplies

The water supply of the Islands is provided by tanks which are well cared for. In addition to these there are shallow and deep wells. The deep wells boost the water supply of the population in the time of drought and the shallow wells are used for cattle. These also are cared for by Public Works and kept in a good state of repair. Details are given in chapter 10.

Sanitation

There is no sewerage system. The pit latrines are kept in good condition. Screens and D.D.T. give protection from the fly menace. During the hurricane of 1945 large groups of people were housed together and buildings and sanitary conveniences were severely damaged. However, D.D.T. proved successful and will be used with more frequency in the future. At present, there is one Sanitary Inspector for both Turks and Caicos Islands. This number will be increased as soon as monies are available.

HOUSING

According to the 1943 census there were 1,365 dwelling houses in these islands; 889 were built of wood and 446 of stone and 30 were of other construction. During the hurricane of 1945 the number of dwelling houses destroyed was 536 and the number of houses damaged was 754. Rehabilitation is in progress and so far 67 houses have been rebuilt and almost all damaged houses have been repaired.

As regards the housing accommodation of the wage-earning population, nearly all of them live in small houses of two or three rooms with small out-houses nearby serving as kitchen, latrine, etc., and with very few exceptions they own the houses which they occupy. The sanitary conditions are fair. The Inspectors of Nuisances and the Police see that the requirements of the sanitary laws are observed. A Sanitary Inspector was appointed late in 1946. Extensive D.D.T. spraying has proved most effective in combating the fly menace.

There is no building law and the people are free to build as they please. A complete revision of the out-of-date Public Health Legislation and the introduction of building regulations is under consideration.

There is no property tax in this Dependency but one is now proposed and the necessary legislation is in draft. There are no building societies.

In these islands there are no barracks, compounds, or tenement houses, and there is no apparent need for additional dwellings, although some are in very poor condition. A small grant has been asked for from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for the construction of experimental working-class cottages. The object of the improvement is to produce model cottages which are inexpensive, hurricane resistant and in line with modern health requirements.

SOCIAL WELFARE

(a) There has so far been little Social Welfare activity. This has been due to the smallness of the population of these Islands, the scattered nature of the settlements and the depressed economic conditions which have prevailed for a number of years. Lack of employment and the almost complete absence of any of the amenities of larger communities such as sport, cinemas, dances and the like is causing many of the younger people to leave these Islands in search of work and more congenial surroundings. An improvement in the economic life of the Dependency provides the only real solution. The rehabilitation of the salt industry and the encouragement and revival of several minor industries are being actively pursued, but these are long-term projects. It is proposed to utilize the village schools in the outlying settlements as simple community centres. As a start, six sub-libraries are being set up, affiliated to the Victoria Library at Grand Turk. As soon as funds permit it is hoped to have selected persons trained in social welfare work.

(b) There is no Government Insurance against old age, unemployment, or sickness, but relief is granted in necessitous cases and costs about £1,100 a year. £500 was spent in 1946 on relief works to alleviate unemployment. There are seven Friendly Societies (including Freemasons, Oddfellows, Good Templars, Good Samaritans and Shepherds), which do much good work in giving assistance and relief to their members in cases of distress, sickness and death.

(c) The after-care of prisoners has so far been left to private charity and little has been done to combat juvenile delinquency. The recommendations of the Prison Board and of the Ministers of the three principal religious denominations are now under consideration.

Chapter VIII: Legislation

Twelve Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Board, one of which did not receive the assent of the Governor. These were:

No. 1	of 1946	The Tonnage Tax (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946.
" 2	"	The Medical Service (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.
" 3	"	The Salt Industry Quota Period (1945-46) Ordinance, 1946.
" 4	"	The Salt Industry Control (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.
" 5	"	The Interpretation Ordinance, 1946.
" 6	"	The General Revenue Appropriation (1945-46) Ordinance, 1946.
" 7	"	The Hurricane Relief Ordinance, 1946.
" 8	"	The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.
" 9	"	The Government Pilot Ordinance, 1946.
" 10	"	The Pilotage and Harbour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946.
" 11	"	The General Revenue Appropriation (1946-47) Ordinance, 1946.
Disallowed		The Venereal Disease (Compulsory Treatment) Ordinance, 1946.

In these Islands there is no factory legislation, legislation for compensation for accidents nor any legislation providing for sickness or old age.

Chapter IX: Justice, Police and Prisons

The law in force in the Dependency consists of the Common Law of England as it existed at the time of the settlement, certain applied Acts of the Imperial Parliament and of the Bahamas Legislature, and the Ordinances passed by the local Legislature. By the Order-in-Council of 1873 the Legislature of Jamaica is empowered to extend to the Dependency legislation passed by them.

The Supreme Court is presided over by a Judge. The Supreme Court of Judicature of Jamaica has jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes and is constituted a Court of Appeal from the Supreme Court of the Dependency. In virtue of the Turks and Caicos Islands Divorce Law, 1943, jurisdiction in matrimonial and divorce causes has also been conferred on the Supreme Court.

There are three Magistrate's Courts namely, Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and Cockburn Harbour.

The Police Force consists of three Non-commissioned Officers and three police constables, of whom all but one are seconded from the Jamaica Constabulary Force. In addition, a number of special constables is continuously employed at Grand Turk, Salt Cay and Cockburn Harbour. In the Caicos Islands there is a district constable at each of the eight principal settlements.

There is a central prison at Grand Turk, into which prisoners sentenced to terms of less than twelve months' imprisonment are received. Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of twelve months and more are sent to the General Penitentiary, Jamaica. There is a local lock-up at Cockburn harbour, where prisoners from the Caicos Islands may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding fourteen days.

Juvenile delinquents are also received at the central prison, but occupy a separate building from that for adult prisoners. Most of the time of the juvenile delinquents is spent outside the prison in the pursuit of education, recreation and the learning of trades.

The central prison is a large, well-constructed stone building with ample accommodation and is kept in good order and sanitary condition. There is complete separation between male and female inmates. There are ten cells for males and four for females, and no associated wards. Each prisoner has seventy square feet of area and over one thousand cubic feet of space during hours of sleep. There is no penal labour in force. The male prisoners are employed in the breaking of stones and work of a general nature on Government property. The prisoners are well fed and are allowed eleven hours for sleep, and every care is taken of their health. The Medical Officer visits the prison regularly, and generally the prisoners enjoy very good health. The Ministers of the various religious bodies hold divine services at the prison regularly.

The Magistrate at Grand Turk acts as Inspector of the prison. There are a gaoler, three warders, a matron, and a cook. The matron supervises

the female prisoners and the juvenile delinquents. There is a Prison Board which meets once in each month to inspect and supervise the prison.

The crime statistics for 1946 were:

Number of crimes reported or known to Police	326
Number of crimes brought before Magistrate	291
Number of cases dropped	44
Number of persons proceeded against (male)	224
(female)	84
Number of persons apprehended	100
Number of persons summoned	208
Number discharged	114
Number summarily convicted	189
Number imprisoned	23
Number whipped	2
Number fined	153
Number bound over or otherwise disposed of	20

The convictions were classified as follows:

Offences against the person	40
Praedial larceny	1
Malicious injury to property	2
Other offences against property	24
Miscellaneous minor offences	80
Other crimes	47
Offences against Revenue, etc.	3

Chapter X: Public Utilities

There are no public utilities in the normally accepted sense. Owing to the nature of the Islands, almost all water used for drinking and washing is rainwater stored in private and public tanks. There are 12 public tanks with a total capacity of 497,000 gallons situated as follows:

Grand Turk	5 tanks, 355,000 gallons
Salt Cay	3 „ 36,000 „
South Caicos (Cockburn Harbour)	2 „ 72,000 „
Kew	1 „ 40,000 „
Blue Hills	1 „ 4,000 „
Total	507,000 „

Drinking water is sold at a penny for four gallons and frequently has to be rationed during dry periods. There is also a number of Government wells.

There is a small Government-operated telephone service at Grand Turk. Before the severe hurricane of 1945 there were 12 connections to Government Quarters, Offices, Hospital, etc., and 16 private connections. The telephone system was destroyed in the hurricane and is under reconstruction. There is also a radio-telegraphy service between Grand Turk and the two salt-producing islands Salt Cay and South Caicos.

Chapter XI: Communications

Before the war there was a regular steamship service between Grand Turk and the United States of America, operated by the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. Elders & Fyffes steamers also called occasionally to disembark passengers and mails from the United Kingdom and to embark passengers and mails for Jamaica. During the war direct services ceased and the only regular service for several years has been by the *M/V Kirksons*. This vessel sails at approximately monthly intervals between Grand Turk and Jamaica and carries general cargo, mails and passengers. There is also a fortnightly dispatch of air-mail via Haiti.

There is constant communication between the Dependency, the Dominican Republic and Haiti by small sailing vessels engaged in trade.

Internal mails are carried between the several islands by small sailing craft engaged in local trade.

Mails to and from Europe are despatched and received via Jamaica.

The Post Office dealt with about 151,400 postal articles during the year.

Grand Turk is an important cable junction, there being cables to Jamaica, Barbados, and Bermuda. The Cable Company supplies a news bulletin daily, for which the Government pays a subsidy.

There are no overland telegraphs in this Dependency.

The streets and roads in the principal settlements were kept in a good condition. A few motor cars and motor trucks are in use. The so-called roads in the Caicos Islands are only bushpaths.

There are no railways or tramways in this Dependency nor are there any omnibuses in use.

There are three ports of entry in the Dependency, namely, Grand Turk, Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay. Each port has an open roadstead and ships anchor at a short distance from the shore.

At the end of the year there were 94 registered vessels owned in the Dependency, totalling 1,428 tons. The number of vessels that entered the several ports during the year was as follows:

	<i>British</i>	<i>Foreign</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Net Tonnage</i>
Steam and Motor Vessels	41	9	50	28,893
Sailing Vessels	173	1	174	3,033
Total	214	10	224	31,926

PART III

Chapter I: Geography and Climate

The Turks and Caicos Islands lie between 21 and 22 degrees north latitude and 71 and 72 degrees 50 minutes west longitude, at the south-east end of the Bahama Islands. They lie about 90 miles to the north of the Dominican Republic, about 720 miles to the south-west of Bermuda and about 450 miles to the north-east of Jamaica.

They consist of two groups of islands, separated by a deep-water channel about 22 miles wide, known as the Turks Islands passage. The Turks Islands lie to the east of the passage and the Caicos Islands to the west. The area of these islands is estimated to be about 166 square miles, but no thorough survey of the group has ever been made.

The Turks Islands consist of two inhabited islands, Grand Turk and Salt Cay, four uninhabited islands and a large number of rocks. A three-pointed bank of reef surrounds the group.

The Caicos Islands, which lie to the west of the channel, surround the Caicos Bank, a triangular shoal 58 miles long on its northern side and 56 miles long on its eastern and western sides.

In his report of the Survey of Sponge Grounds (1938), Dr. H. H. Brown describes the Geological structure of the Caicos Bank as precisely similar to that of the Bahamas. 'A flat-topped rock rises steeply from the ocean bed consisting entirely of aeolian limestone of tertiary origin; this rock mass comprises the whole Caicos Banks and Cays and is similar to other rock masses of the Bahama group.'

The northern and eastern sides of the bank are bounded by a chain of islands separated from each other by narrow passages. The principal islands of the Caicos group are South Caicos, East Caicos, Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Providenciales Island, and West Caicos.

At a varying distance from the ocean coastline of these islands there is an almost continuous barrier reef. Dr. Brown writes: 'This reef of living coral is superimposed on the edge of the limestone land mass. Within the reef the boat channel is full of sunken coral heads and boilers on which the seas break heavily. It is therefore very dangerous to navigate.' On the islands 'the limestone is weathered into the familiar Bahamian honeycomb rock in the interstices of which there are little pockets of soil which support a vigorous growth of bush.' On the bank coast of these islands there is found 'a mangrove and seawater swamp which is intersected by a series of shallow creeks. The basis of the swamp consists of a covering of white marl over the underlying limestone. This marl is composed of almost pure calcium carbonate and had resulted from the breaking down of the limestone rock.' Dr. Brown divides the bed of the bank into four areas lying roughly from east to west. The first, beginning from the north, consists of white mud or marl under some three or four feet of water. The second, a zone of sandy mud in water up to a fathom in depth. The third, a zone of shell gravel and scattered bars known locally as 'Bank'. The ground had enough sand

and mud to bind with the abundant shells into a stable surface, which is not shifted or stirred up by currents and high winds; it can therefore support a rich flora and fauna, patches of eel grass and burrowing animals (Annelida Mollusca and Crustacea). Shells of mollusca are abundant in the surface.' The last zone under shallow water consists of clean shifting biologically barren sand, which in places is dry at low tide.

At the southern and south-western edge of the bank is found 'the barrier reef from the edge of which soundings drop down with spectacular suddenness'.

The entire group known as the Turks and Caicos Islands extends for a distance of 75 miles from east to west and 50 miles from north to south.

The climate may be classed as good. The temperature ranges throughout the year from 60 degrees minimum to 90 degrees maximum. Although the period from April to November is generally hot, the heat is somewhat tempered by the prevailing trade winds. The weather from December onwards is generally pleasant. At Grand Turk the average rainfall for the last ten years has been 34.4 inches. The rainfall during 1938 was 24.04 inches and the maximum and minimum temperatures were 93 degrees and 64 degrees with a mean maximum and minimum of 83.09 degrees and 74.74 degrees.

These islands have suffered periodically from the effects of terrible hurricanes. Two passed over them in 1926 and one in 1928. The one of September, 1926, was the most disastrous as regards destruction of property for many years. The hurricane of 1945 was even more disastrous, owing to the velocity of the wind, which exceeded 150 miles an hour, but was not accompanied, as in 1926, by a tidal wave.

Chapter II: History

It is said that the Turks Islands derived their name from a species of cactus found there by the first settlers, the scarlet head of which resembled a Turkish fez. These islands were discovered in 1512 by Juan Ponce de Leon while on a voyage from Puerto Rico. They remained uninhabited until the year 1678, when a party of Bermudians arrived and established the salt raking industry. From that date onwards parties of Bermudians used to resort annually to the Turks Islands to rake salt, arriving about the month of March and returning to Bermuda about November, when the salt raking season was over. The Bermudians were expelled by the Spaniards in 1710, but soon returned and continued the salt industry, with occasional interruption by attacks by the Spaniards. Several attempts to obtain possession of the islands were also made by the French. In the year 1766 an agent, Mr. Andrew Symmer, was appointed 'to reside there, and, by his residence on the spot, to insure the right of the Islands to His Majesty'. By an Order in Council of 1781 regulations were approved for the management of the salinas (salt ponds) and for the preservation of order amongst the inhabitants. In 1799 the Turks and Caicos Islands were placed under the Bahamas Government and so they remained until 1848, when, in answer to a petition from the inhabitants, a separate charter was granted. Under this charter the islands

had an elective Legislative Council and a President administering the Government. This system was found to be too expensive, and in 1873 the inhabitants forwarded a petition praying for the abrogation of the charter. The islands were then annexed to Jamaica, and still remain one of its Dependencies.

Chapter III: Administration

The Government of this Dependency is administered by a Commissioner who is President of the Legislative Board. He is selected by the Secretary of State for the Colonies and appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. Mr. E. P. Arrowsmith assumed duties of Commissioner in February, 1940. In June, 1946, Mr. Arrowsmith was transferred to Dominica, and in October, 1946, Mr. C. E. Wool-Lewis assumed the duties of Commissioner.

There is a Legislative Board comprising the Commissioner and two official and three unofficial members appointed by the Governor of Jamaica.

There are several other Government Boards, appointed by the Commissioner, which deal with various local matters.

There is no political franchise in this Dependency.

The Government of these islands is under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica, whose assent to the Ordinances of the Legislative Board is required.

Certain laws of Jamaica are in express terms made applicable to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The seat of Government is at Grand Turk, where the Commissioner resides.

Other settlements are Cockburn Harbour on South Caicos, where there is a District Commissioner, and Salt Cay on the island of that name, where there is a Government Officer. There are ten settlements in the Caicos Islands, all of which are inhabited solely by people of African origin, and at each of which there is a District Constable.

During the year the Commissioner visited Cockburn Harbour and Salt Cay on various occasions and also toured the Caicos Islands. The difficulties of administering the scattered settlements of the Dependency have been lessened by the purchase of a motor launch. Funds were provided by a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

District Boards have been established in four of the larger Caicos settlements to advise concerning Public Health, water supplies, communications and other matters of local interest. These Boards have already shown themselves to be of value and to provide a useful link between the people of remoter parts of the Dependency and Government.

The Commissioner visited Jamaica twice during the year in connection with plans for Development and Welfare and for the reorganization of the salt industry.

Chapter IV: Weights and Measures

Only the imperial weights and measures are in use in these islands.

Chapter V: Newspapers and Periodicals

No newspapers or periodicals are now published in the Dependency.

Chapter VI: Bibliography

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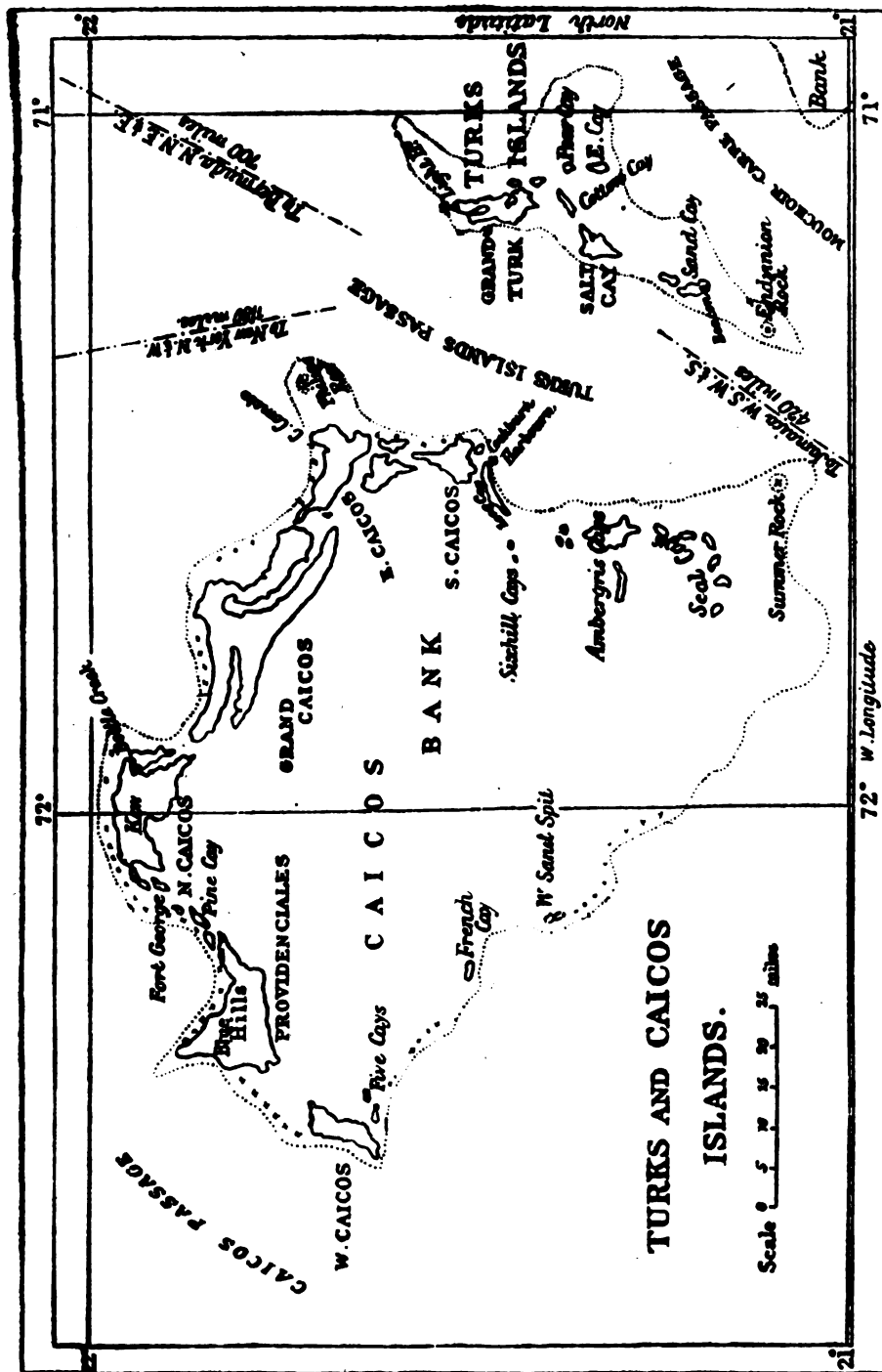
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